

CLAIMS:

1. A method to perform failover, comprising:
monitoring a sensor by a first alert sending device;
monitoring said first alert sending device by a second alert sending device;
determining whether said first alert sending device is in a failed state; and
monitoring said sensor by a second alert sending device in accordance with said determination.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein monitoring said sensor by said first alert sending device comprises:
detecting said sensor is in a failed state by said first alert sending device; and
sending an alert message over a first network interface corresponding to said first alert sending device to indicate said failed state.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
detecting said sensor is in a failed state by said second alert sending device; and
sending an alert message over a second network interface corresponding to said second alert sending device to indicate said failed state.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein monitoring said first alert sending device comprises:

- sending a status message on a periodic basis over a bus from said first alert sending device; and
- receiving said status message at said second alert sending device from said bus.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein said determining comprises:
- retrieving a failover status identifier from said status message; and
- detecting said first alert sending device is in said failed state in accordance with said failover status identifier.
6. The method of claim 4, wherein said determining comprises:
- monitoring said bus for said period;
- determining whether said status message was received within said period; and
- detecting said first alert sending device is in said failed state if said status message was not received within said period.
7. A method to perform failover, comprising:
- determining that a first alert sending device is to operate in a primary mode;
- sending a status message on a periodic basis over a bus to indicate said first alert sending device is in an operating state;
- detecting that said first alert sending device is in a failed state; and
- sending said status message to indicate said first alert sending device is in said failed state.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising monitoring a sensor by said first alert sending device.
9. The method of claim 7, wherein said status message comprises fields for a teamed address, a failover status and an alert sending device address for said first alert sending device.
10. The method of claim 7, further comprising receiving a configuration message to configure said first alert sending device in said primary mode.
11. The method of claim 7, wherein said configuration message comprises fields for an alert sending device address for said first alert sending device, a failover configuration, and a teamed address.
12. A method to perform failover, comprising:
 - determining that a second alert sending device is to operate in a secondary mode;
 - receiving a status message on a periodic basis over a bus to indicate a first alert sending device is in an operating state;
 - detecting that said first alert sending device is in a failed state; and
 - sending a failover assert message to indicate that said second alert sending device is to operate in a primary mode.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein said detecting comprises:

receiving said status message;
retrieving a failover status identifier from said status message; and
detecting said first alert sending device is in said failed state in accordance with
said failover status identifier.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein said detecting comprises:
monitoring said bus for said period;
determining whether said status message was received within said period; and
detecting said first alert sending device is in said failed state if said status message
was not received within said period.

15. The method of claim 12, further comprising receiving a configuration message to
configure said second alert sending device in said secondary mode.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein said failover assert message comprises fields for
a teamed address and an alert sending device address for said second alert sending
device.

17. An alert system, comprising:
a sensor;
a bus to connect with said sensor;
a first alert sending device to connect to said bus and monitor said sensor; and

a second alert sending device to connect to said bus and monitor said first alert sending device.

18. The alert system of claim 17, wherein said first alert sending device comprises:

- a bus interface to interface with said bus;
- an alert module to connect to said bus interface, said alert module to monitor said sensor and generate an alert if said sensor is in a failed state;
- a network interface to connect to said alert module to send said alert; and
- a failover module to connect to said bus interface.

19. The alert system of claim 18, wherein said failover module is configured to have said first alert sending device operate in a primary mode, and send periodic status messages over said bus to said second alert sending device.

20. The alert system of claim 17, wherein said second alert sending device comprises:

- a bus interface to interface with said bus;
- an alert module to connect to said bus interface, said alert module to monitor said sensor and generate an alert if said sensor is in a failed state;
- a network interface to connect to said alert module to send said alert; and
- a failover module to connect to said bus interface.

21. The alert system of claim 20, wherein said failover module is configured to have said second alert sending device operate in a secondary mode, detect whether said first

alert sending device is in a failed state, and change to a primary mode if said failed state is detected.

22. An alert sending device, comprising:
- a bus interface to interface with a bus;
 - an alert module to connect to said bus interface, said alert module to monitor a sensor and generate an alert if said sensor is in a failed state;
 - a network interface to connect to said alert module to send said alert; and
 - a failover module to connect to said bus interface.
23. The alert sending device of claim 22, wherein said failover module is configured to have said alert sending device operate in a primary mode, and send periodic status messages over said bus.
24. The alert sending device of claim 22, wherein said failover module is configured to have said alert sending device operate in a secondary mode, detect whether another alert sending device is in a failed state, and change to a primary mode if said failed state is detected.
25. The alert sending device of claim 22, wherein said bus comprises a system management bus.
26. An article comprising:

a storage medium;

said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in performing failover by monitoring a sensor by a first alert sending device, monitoring said first alert sending device by a second alert sending device, determining whether said first alert sending device is in a failed state, and monitoring said sensor by a second alert sending device in accordance with said determination.

27. The article of claim 26, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in said monitoring said sensor by said first alert sending device by detecting said sensor is in a failed state by said first alert sending device, and sending an alert message over a first network interface corresponding to said first alert sending device to indicate said failed state.

28. The article of claim 27, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in said failover by detecting said sensor is in a failed state by said second alert sending device, and sending an alert message over a second network interface corresponding to said second alert sending device to indicate said failed state.